Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having two connections to two other nodes in the network; and

displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and second orthogonal segments and a first curved segment joining the first and second segments in a continuous manner to indicate connection of the displayed node and a first one of the two other nodes, wherein the second connection path includes first and second orthogonal segments and a second curved segment joining the first and second segments in a continuous manner to indicate connection of the displayed node and a second one of the two other nodes, and wherein the first segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion the first segment of the second connection path such that the overlapped portion of the first segment of the second connection path is not visible in the network topology display.

Claim 2 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first segment is a horizontal segment and wherein the second segment is a vertical segment.

Claim 3 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the horizontal segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a horizontal segment of the second connection path.

Claim 4 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the vertical segment of the first connection path overlaps with a portion of a vertical segment of the second connection path.

Claim 5 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the first segment is connected to the displayed node, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of a segment of the second connection path.

Claim 6 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the second segment is connected to the second displayed node.

Claim 7 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein the first connection path further includes a third segment orthogonal to the second segment, and a second curved segment joining the second segment to the third segment in a continuous manner.

Claim 8 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 7, further comprising displaying a second node representing a second component in the network, wherein the third segment is connected to the second displayed node.

Claim 9 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first connection path.

Claim 10 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

Claim 11 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the step of highlighting includes changing the color of the first connection path.

Claim 12 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

Claim 13 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 9, wherein the user selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first connection path from a list of network connections.

Claim 14 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the displayed node represents one of a switch group and a host group.

Claim 15 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising highlighting the connection paths for all connections to the displayed node in response to a user indication.

Claim 16 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

Claim 17 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the step of highlighting includes changing the colors of the highlighted connection paths.

Claim 18 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user indication is input by the user using a computer mouse.

Claim 19 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 15, wherein the user indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

Claim 20 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the network is a storage area network (SAN).

Claim 21 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having two connections to two other nodes in the network;

displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two connections with the two other nodes, wherein portions of the first and second connection paths overlap such that only one of the first and second connection paths is visible in network topology display in the overlapping portions; and

highlighting the first connection path in response to a user selection of the first connection path.

Claim 22 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the first connection path.

Claim 23 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein highlighting includes changing the color of the first connection path.

Claim 24 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user selection is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

Claim 25 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein the user selection is performed by the user selecting a first connection associated with the first connection path from a list of network connections.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having two or more connections to two or more other nodes in the network;

displaying two or more connection paths, each representing one of the Connections with the other nodes, wherein portions of a first displayed connection path overlaps with a portion of a second displayed connection path such that only one of the first and second connection paths is visible in network topology display in the overlapping portions; and

highlighting the displayed connection paths for all connections to the displayed node in response to a user indication.

Claim 27 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting includes increasing the thickness of the highlighted connection paths.

Claim 28 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein highlighting includes changing the color of the highlighted connection paths.

Claim 29 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user indication is performed by the user using a computer mouse.

Claim 30 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein the user indication includes a selection by the user from a menu of one or more options.

Claims 31 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of simplifying a network topology display having multiple connections between network nodes, comprising:

displaying a node representing a component in a network, said node having two connections to two other nodes in the network; and

displaying first and second connection paths, each representing one of the two connections with the two other nodes, wherein the first connection path includes first and second orthogonal segments and a distinguishing segment joining the first and second segments in a continuous manner, the distinguishing segment being configured to indicate connectivity between the displayed node and only one of the two other nodes by providing a sense of direction to the first connection path between the displayed node and the one of the two other nodes, and wherein the first segment overlaps with a portion of the second connection path.

Claim 32 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 31, wherein the distinguishing segment includes two or more polygonal portions.